Of the other resident species listed for Greenwich Borough in 1987, I have yet to meet with the Grizzled Skipper (which could well occur on Woolwich Common); the Purple Hairstreak (probably present in the Shooters Hill woods but very easily missed); and the Brimstone, whose foodplants are absent locally. I have not for several years seen the Wall, previously not uncommon in two restricted sites: a field edge at Kidbrooke, and a short riverside stretch of Charlton Reach approaching Greenwich, at both of which there has been severe disturbance. It would be premature to write off *L. megera* as a loss to the Borough – though indeed it may be – because so many apparently suitable spots remain, and, as just noted, the butterfly can be very local.

Further species that have shown a drastic reduction in numbers here in 1996 are: Speckled Wood (scarce also in 1995 after a period of increase; a fine late female at ivy-bloom, 18.x.93, in a north-east wind after frost, is perhaps worth mention); Small Heath (not seen at all, though noted each year on Woolwich Common up to then); and Small Tortoiseshell (only two met with, besides a small colony of larvae at Kidbrooke). For what is supposed to be the commonest British butterfly, this degree of rarity surely calls for some explanation – has it been the general experience last year?– A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

Cicones undatus Guér. (Col.: Colydiidae) and other beetles on sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* killed by sooty bark disease at Grafham, Huntingdonshire

Following Mendel and Owen's discovery of *Cicones undatus* under sycamore bark in Windsor Great Park in 1984 (1987, *Ent. Rec.* **99**: 93-95) and Jones' account of a diverse and rare beetle fauna associated with sooty bark disease on sycamore at Nunhead Cemetery between 1988 and 1992 (1993, *ibid.* **105**: 1-10), I enquired of Mr D. Evans, Tree Officer for Huntingdon District Council, whether the disease had been reported from the old County of Huntingdonshire. He was aware of one earlier localised outbreak in a large garden at Alconbury, but the infected trees had long been felled and removed from the site.

Sooty bark disease is caused by an ascomycete fungus *Cryptostoma corticale* Ell. & Ev. which, in Britain, is almost confined to sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* L., although it occurs occasionally on other species of *Acer* and horse chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum* L. Strouts and Winter (1994, *Diagnosis of ill-health in trees*, HMSO) state that this disease was first recorded in Great Britain in London during 1948. They add that "the fungus is widespread on dead wood, but requires long, hot, dry summers to cause disease", and conclude that "outbreaks are, therefore, sporadic and concentrated in the southern half of the country". However, David Rose of the Forestry Authority's Pathology Diagnostics Advisory Service at Alice

Holt informs me (*pers. comm.*) that cases of sooty bark disease were reported in 1991/92 following the drought years of 1989/90. Similarly after the hot summer of 1995 outbreaks have occurred in Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, the Vale of Cheshire, and possibly in Derbyshire. With the apparent increasing frequency of dry years when trees suffer water stress, sooty bark disease has spread rapidly into East Anglia and central England. The big question for coleopterists was, would species such as *Cicones undatus* and *Synchita separanda* (Reitt.) spread north with the disease?

On 8 October 1996 mr Evans notified me of a number of small to medium sized sycamore trees which had been killed at Grafham Caravan Park (TL 156696) in the Administrative County of Cambridgeshire, but in vice county 31, Huntingdonshire. I was unable to visit the site until 8 November when Mr Cubberley, the site owner, readily gave me permission to strip bark from the dead standing trees. Against all my expectations every tree was found to harbour large numbers of adult *Enicnus brevicornis* (Mann.) and *Litargus connexus* (Fourc.) together with four *Enicmus* larvae plus one larva and one pupa of *Litargus*. Among the other Coleoptera collected from beneath the bark were five adult *Cicones undatus* Guér. and 11 larval Colydiidae thought to be of this species. Certainly they were not larvae of *Bitoma crenata* (F.), ten adult specimens of which occurred under the flaking bark, or of *Synchita* which, alas, was not found to be present. This is not only the first record of *Cicones* from Huntingdonshire but it is also considerably further north than any other locality for this species of which I am currently aware.

The following is a complete list of the other species of Coleoptera recorded from under sycamore bark at Grafham and includes a few strays and species in over-wintering sites (single specimens where not stated otherwise):

Leistus spinibarbis (F.) 2
Dromius agilis (F.)
D. quadrinotatus (Pz.) 2 adults, 1 larva
Microlestes maurus (Stm.) 3
Megasternum obscurum (Marsh.)
Oligota picipes (Steph.) 2
Leptusa fumida (Er.)
Atheta trinotata (Kr.)
Thanasimus formicarius (L.) adult and larva
Rhizopahagus bipustulatis (F.)
Cryptolestes ferrugineus (Steph.) 21 adults, 1 larva
Cryptophagus dentatus (Hbst.) 5
Biphyllus lunatus (F.) 9
Adalia bipunctata (L.) ca.20
Coccinella septempunctata L. 2
Aridius bifasciatus Reitt.)
Mycetophagus quadripustulatus (L.) 5 adults, 1 larva
Vincinzellus ruficollis (Pz.) 22;
Rhinosimus planirostris (F.) 18 adults, 8 larvae
Anthicus antherinus (L.) 2
Bruchus rufimanus Boh.
Sitona lineatus (L.) 6.

In addition to several woodlice *Porcellio scaber* Latr., a few earwigs *Forficula auricularia* L., and one nettle bug *Heterogaster urticae* (F.), the

following subcortical Heteroptera were present: *Dufouriellus ater* (Dufour) 16 adults, 2 larvae; *Cardiastethus fasciiventris* (Garb.) 2 adults, 10 larvae; and one *Xylocoris curtisans* (Fall.)– R. COLIN WELCH, The Mathom House, Hemington, nr. Oundle, Peterborough PE8 5QJ.

BOOK REVIEWS

Provisional atlas of the click beetles (Coleoptera: Elateroidea) of Britain and Ireland by **H. Mendel and R.E. Clarke.** 82 pages, including 73 full-page distribution maps. A4, paper - ISBN 0 906688 24 8. Ipswich Borough Council Museums, £5 plus £1 UK postage and packing. Available from Ipswich Museum, High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 3QH.

This is an A4 sized revision of Howard Mendel's earlier provisional atlas (Mendel, 1988) which was published in A5 format by the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology. In it we find a much improved coverage of the British Isles, especially Ireland and Scotland, and the maps are inevitably, therefore, of far greater value to entomologists, ecologists and others than the earlier versions. The larger size, though not quite so comfortable on the shelf, certainly improves the clarity of the maps (produced using the DMAP programme), which are now annotated with Red Data Book or Nationally Notable status as appropriate. The introductory text is minimal, as may be expected in a *provisional* publication, but there is an extremely useful, updated synonymic checklist of British Isles species. Well worth the small price if you are a coleopterist in any form or if you are involved in using invertebrates in site assessments and the like.

Reference

Mendel,. H., 1988. *Provisional atlas of the click beetles (Coleoptera: Elateroidea) of the British Isles.* Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Cumbria.

Colin W. Plant

The Butterflies of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly by **R.D. Penhallurick.** 180 pages, numerous maps and text figures. Hardbound. ISBN 0 9515785 1 0. Published by Dyllansow Pengwella, 10 Treseder's Gardens, Truro, Cornwall TR1 1TR. £14.75.

The latest in a long line of county butterfly faunas, this should certainly be of interest in view of the peculiarities of the climate in the extreme south-western tip of England which it covers in its pages. Cornwall, so it seems, remains a good place for butterflies, in spite of the best efforts of the tourist industry, with some 66 species here listed for all time. The species accounts are well researched and presented in a scholarly manner and the result of